

Watermelon

By Marian Keyes

Claire Webster's got it all - a perfect marriage to a handsome husband who provides well and now a darling baby girl—until the morning after she gives birth, when her husband, James, informs her that he's having an affair with their downstairs neighbor and deserts her and his child. Claire flies back to Dublin and the dubious security of her wacky family to sort out her life. A too-handsome hunk of younger man named Adam—whose motives in pursuing her must be suspect, mustn't they? - enlivens this story of survival in the face of crushing blows to one's self-esteem. Hilarious interior monolog, with Claire's refereeing the warring segments of her obstreperous psyche, puts this first novel on the Gen-X "must-read" list. It will appeal to mainstream, women's fiction, and romance fans, too.

*Available at Wayne in Fiction
and on Audio-Cassette*

Little Earthquakes

By Jennifer Weiner

Four young women who seem to have little in common get to know each other in the late stages of first pregnancy and childbirth. At a time when each thinks she should be happy and fulfilled, there is the overpowering sense of fragile weariness that comes with a new baby. One of the women is married to a basketball star who shows up in the delivery room smelling of another woman's perfume; another has a steady, ambitious husband who loses his job and becomes a long-term couch potato. In the development of the individual stories, understanding, forgiveness, and maturity begin to emerge. The voices of the women drive the narrative, and the author, who also reads the story, gives each person a distinct and appealing personality. Female listeners will relate to the universality of the friendship and warmth among these characters.

*Available at Wayne & Preakness in
Fiction and on Audio-CD*



May Contain Nuts

By John O'Farrell

Alice is a married, middle-aged Bridget Jones-dizzy, maddening, and somewhat endearing. Completely mental about her kids, she will stop at nothing to protect them—especially from being one-upped by ruthless Ffion's daughter, who is nothing short of perfect. When Alice's eldest seems certain to flub her crucial private-school entrance exams, Alice concocts a plan to impersonate her daughter and take the tests in her place. A big hitch: Alice does not have a head for math. A scene with Alice and her husband shopping for a disguise at Gap Kids is side-splittingly funny, as are some cocktail parties where the parents desperately try to impress their friends with their children's achievements...fun stuff, from the British equivalent of Dave Barry.

Available at Wayne in Fiction



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In Celebration of Mom



**Any mother could perform the jobs
of several air traffic controllers with
ease.**

~Lisa Alther

**Who ran to help me when I fell,
And would some pretty story tell,
Or kiss the place to make it well?
My mother.**

~Ann Taylor

**My mom is literally a part of me.
You can't say that about many
people except relatives, and organ
donors.**

~Carrie Latet

The Ten-Year Nap

By Meg Wolitzer

A wise, witty assessment of the contemporary dilemmas of middle-class mothers (in particular: to work or not to work), set in the competitive terrain of New York City parenting. Using the comfortable format of friendship between four women, this novel takes ironic stock of how far females have (and haven't) come since feminism tried to rearrange the work/life balance between the sexes. Lawyer Amy Lamb has still not gone back to her job after the birth of her son ten years ago. Her good friend Jill, a one-time prizewinner who recently left Manhattan for the suburbs with her family, is finding it hard to fit in. Their circle also includes ex-artist Roberta who, like Amy, feels happier without the pressures of a job, yet senses dissatisfactions and uncertainty about her identity; and mathematician Karen, whose Chinese parents take great satisfaction in her not needing to work. The women meet for coffee or yoga and mutual support. Aside from Jill's jealousy of Amy's new friendship with glamorous museum director Penny, unaware that the relationship is driven by a shared secret (Penny's extramarital affair), plot events are few. Instead, Wolitzer uses modern domesticity as a lens through which to scrutinize mixed feelings about ambition, marriage, aging, money and the peculiar results of the women's individual choices.

Available at Wayne & Preakness in Fiction



Mommy Tracked

By Whitney Gaskell

Four very different women—Juliet, an ambitious lawyer out to make a name for herself; Grace, a housewife desperate to lose weight; Anna, a single mother trying to cope with a career, motherhood, and dating; and Chloe, trying to handle a new baby with no help from her flighty husband—deal with the challenges and joys of motherhood, men, and friendship.

Available at Wayne in Fiction

Family Tree

By Barbara Delinsky

For as long as she can remember, Dana Clarke has longed for the stability of home and family. Now she has married a man she adores, whose heritage can be traced back to the Mayflower, and she is about to give birth to their first child. But what should be the happiest day of her life becomes the day her world falls apart. Her daughter is born beautiful and healthy, and in addition, unmistakably African-American in appearance. Dana's determination to discover the truth about her baby's heritage becomes a shocking, poignant journey. A superbly crafted novel, *Family Tree* asks penetrating questions about family and the choices people make in times of crisis.

*Available at Wayne & Preakness in Fiction,
Large-Type and Audio-Cassette*

The Hunchback of Neiman Marcus: a novel about marriage, motherhood and mayhem

By Sonya Sones

Life is coming fast to Holly, who is facing 50. Her daughter is leaving for college, her 80-year-old mother in Cleveland is ill, her perfect husband may not be so perfect, and she has a book deadline to meet. Instead of explaining the complications to her very young editor, she avoids her calls like the plague and tries to sort out her life. How can your only child be leaving to go to college so far away? Will her marriage survive an empty nest? How can you convince your ill mother to come to California so you can take care of her? Will the doctor stop making bad jokes and annoying sounds while discussing your mother? Sones tackles these questions and more in this highly entertaining novel in verse that will have readers clamoring for more.

Available at Preakness in Fiction



Momzillas

By Jill Kargman

Recently relocated to the Upper East Side from San Francisco after her husband, Josh, took a lucrative job, Hannah Allen is thrown into the mommy snake pit by her domineering mother-in-law, Lila Allen Dillingham, who introduces Hannah to a cabal of neighborhood moms led by the "drop dead gorgissima" Bee Elliott. Hannah, a black-jeans-and-Converse art history grad and mother of too-cute two-year-old Violet, struggles to please Lila and keep up with Bee's hypercompetitive crew of "Kelly-bag-toting, Chanel-suit-wearing, Bugaboo-pushing sharks" who fret over their children's head circumferences and admissions into pre-preschools with three-year waiting lists. There's no shortage of name-dropping and light humor as Hannah struggles to win a co-op board's approval, keep her marriage afloat and get Violet into Carnegie Nursery School.

Available at Wayne in Fiction

Odd Mom Out

By Jane Porter

Marta Zinsser is not your typical suburban mom. Single, strong, and confident, she wears camouflage pants and chunky boots and rides a motorcycle. When her New York advertising firm asks her to open a branch in Seattle, she agrees to return to her hometown, mostly because of her mother's ill health. Now she's running her own firm out of her house, while her nine-year-old daughter is trying and failing to fit in at her new school. Eva is heartbroken, but Marta, who has never felt the need to be part of the pack, is at a loss as to how to help. Eva's subsequent attempts to change Marta into a normal mom and her sudden, not-so-subtle hints that Marta should get married and create a regular family are funny and poignant. With the increasing demands of her daughter, her ailing mother, and work, Marta's life begins to spiral out of control in a way most women will all-too-readily recognize.

Available at Wayne & Preakness in Fiction